

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-20, and 22 are pending in this application. By this Reply, claims 13 and 15 are amended and claims 16 and 21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Kumar et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,852,389) (hereinafter Kumar). Additionally, claims 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Belcher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,646) (hereinafter Belcher). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 21, and claim 15 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 16. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 13 and 15 are in condition for allowance. Claims 16 and 21 have correspondingly been cancelled. Additionally, it is respectfully

submitted that no new issues have been raised by this amendment, since the features of claims 16 and 21 have previously been examined.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13, and claim 19 depends from claim 15. These claims are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the corresponding independent claims. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claim 1-9, 11, and 12, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16-18 and 20-22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Anthony H. Nourse**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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